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Letter dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final communiqué of the Summit of Heads of State of the Mano River Union, held on 20 May 2004 at Conakry (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alpha Ibrahima **Sow**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

Summit of Heads of State of the Mano River Union

Conakry, 20 May 2004

Final communiqué

At the invitation of His Excellency General Lansana Conté, President of the Republic of Guinea, the Summit of the Heads of State of the Mano River Union was held on 20 May 2004 at Conakry.

Participants in the Summit included Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of Sierra Leone, and Charles Gyude Bryant, President of the National Transitional Government of Liberia.

The Summit was honoured by the presence of the Presidents of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré.

Also present was Ambassador Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone.

This Summit took place against the background of a revival in the activities of the Mano River Union which is taking place thanks to the new climate of peace prevailing in the subregion.

1. The Summit welcomed the considerable progress made in consolidating peace and restoring the authority of the State throughout the territory of Sierra Leone.

2. The Summit expressed particular satisfaction at the successful implementation of the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation programme, which had made possible the voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees.

3. The Summit warmly welcomed the establishment of the National Transitional Government of Liberia, and commended the efforts of the international community to restore normal constitutional life and promote full participation by all Liberians in rebuilding their country.

4. The Summit undertook to support all initiatives to foster a climate of trust and security in the subregion, in order to strengthen cooperation among States and promote their sustainable and integrated development.

5. The Heads of State gave careful consideration to the recommendations of the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Joint Security Committee, held at Conakry on 19 May 2004.

6. Having amended the report of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Heads of State considered that all armed individuals or groups of individuals conducting destabilizing activities against a legally established Government are to be considered as rebels or mercenaries. Consequently, the member States of the Union must take all necessary legal and security measures to render such groups or individuals harmless.

Fully aware of the threat that cross-border crime represents for peace and stability, the Heads of State called upon the security and intelligence services of the three States to establish effective cooperation and monitoring mechanisms to combat that scourge.

7. Welcoming the latest developments in Liberia, the Summit undertook to support the laudable efforts of the international community towards a return to a lasting peace in that country.

8. In that context, the Heads of State strongly encouraged the National Transitional Government of Liberia to spare no effort in ensuring the full application of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and particularly the successful implementation of the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and rehabilitation programme.

9. The Summit reiterated its appeal to the international community for additional support in order to revive the institutions of the Mano River Union and facilitate the implementation of existing Protocols, particularly the Fifteenth Protocol on Defence and Security, and confidence-building measures.

10. The Summit reaffirmed the vital role of the culture of peace and undertook to step up awareness-building and educational activities among the populations of the three countries.

11. The Heads of State also agreed to encourage their national institutions responsible for combating the proliferation of light weapons to strengthen their contacts and cooperation with the Joint Security Committee in order to eradicate the scourge of light weapons and trafficking in drugs and other narcotics used to finance mercenaries.

12. The Heads of State further reiterated their determination to forge even closer brotherly and friendly relations with a view to the continual strengthening of the historic ties binding their countries. They undertook to settle any disputes by peaceful means.

13. The Heads of State of the Mano River Union warmly welcomed the participation of their brothers and friends, the Presidents of Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, reflecting the strong desire of the leaders of the subregion to find solutions together to the challenges confronting their peoples.

14. They reaffirmed their complete readiness to work together with their brothers from Mali and Côte d'Ivoire to transform our space into a zone of stability conducive to joint cooperation for sustainable and integrated development.

15. For this reason, fully aware of the regional dimension of the Ivorian conflict, the Heads of State expressed their profound concern at the situation in that country. In that connection, they reaffirmed their strong solidarity with the efforts of President Laurent Gbagbo and his Government to safeguard the territorial integrity of Côte d'Ivoire. Thus, the Heads of State of the Mano River Union strongly condemned any form of unconstitutional takeover, in accordance with the provisions in force, particularly the Declaration of Algiers of 1999.

16. The Summit expressed its profound gratitude to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the African Development Bank for their support to the subregional project to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

among refugees, displaced persons and host populations in the Mano River basin countries and Côte d'Ivoire.

17. The Heads of State of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali expressed their deep gratitude to President Lansana Conté and the Guinean people for the tremendous sacrifices they have made to ease the suffering of thousands of refugees in the subregion.

18. They issued an urgent appeal to the international community to provide ongoing support to the efforts of Guinea to rehabilitate areas affected by the prolonged presence of refugees.

19. Presidents Laurent Gbagbo and Amadou Toumani Touré expressed their deep gratitude to President Lansana Conté for his great solicitude towards them.

20. They reassured President Lansana Conté and their brothers in Liberia and Sierra Leone of their determination to participate in this undertaking to revive the subregion.

21. The Heads of State of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali expressed their deep appreciation to General Lansana Conté for his successful initiative to host the Summit of the Mano River Union.

22. They expressed their full satisfaction with the excellent arrangements made for their visit, fully living up to the Guinean reputation for hospitality.

23. The Heads of State decided to hold their next Summit in Monrovia.